

Powder Magazine  
Magazine Lane near  
Penrose Ferry Road,  
Philadelphia, Penna.

HABS No. PA-124

HABS  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
220-

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Pennsylvania

HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Joseph P. Sims, District Officer  
2008 Architects Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

OLD POWDER MAGAZINE  
Magazine Lane near Penrose Ferry Road  
Philadelphia, Penna.

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Agent for Owner - The Pennsylvania Company for Insurance  
on Lives and Granting Annuities.

Date of Erection - 1808.

Architect - Unknown.

Builder - State of Pennsylvania.

Number of Stories- One and one-half.

Materials of Construction - Built of local stone with  
stone buttresses. Brick trim around  
the windows and doors, and ventilators  
in the attic built of brick, as well as  
brick chimneys. Two barrel vaults about  
22' wide and parallel run the length of  
the building, which is about 70'. The  
space in the attic above these barrel  
vaults is ventilated, and probably there  
was originally a ventilated basement  
below, so as to give ventilation above  
and below the powder storage.

The roof is of slate and the entire  
building is now (1937) fast falling into  
decay.

There is a Caretaker's house built of  
brick adjoining the Magazine and of  
earlier date. It was evidently only half  
completed as it shows a Gambrel roof cut  
at the ridge. This building has some  
remains of nice 18th Century panelling  
and is also in a state of disrepair.

History - For greater security in storing powder  
and military stores in Philadelphia, a  
movement was started as early as 1724 for

- History, contd. - the erection of a Powder house and magazine. In 1808 the old magazine at Walnut and Ashton Streets was abandoned and this one built by the State for about \$5000.00. It is believed that it was used in the War of 1812, and it was abandoned by virtue of the Act of Assembly of April 29th, 1874.
- Bibliography - Watson's Annals of Philadelphia  
Paxson's Where Pennsylvania History Began.
- Note - Two sheets of measured drawings of the building were made PA-127, November and December 1936.

Approved February 3rd, 1937

*Joseph P. Sims*

Joseph P. Sims,  
District Officer

*V.B. Torn Down - Summer, 1940*

*FCB.*

*FW 6/14/57*